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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 17 are pending. Claims 15 to 17 are new. However, no claims are allowed.

1. Claim 8 is objected to because the stoichiometric value for "x" is not defined for CF_x . This claim has been amended to call out the generally accepted name for CF_x as "fluorinated carbon". Support for this is found in the specification at page 7, lines 1 to 8.

Reconsideration of this objection is requested.

2. Claims 1 to 14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hallifax et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0018928). Hallifax et al. describes in Figs. 6 and 7 a cell comprising a cathode strip 50 of cathode active material 52' contacted to a cathode current collector 54 and having a downwardly facing slot 53 disposed at a midportion thereof. The anode 60 comprises an anode active material 62 contacted to an anode current collector 64 and having an upwardly facing slot 63 disposed at a midportion thereof. To form an electrode assembly, the cathode and anode are mated to each other at their respective slots 53, 63 to form a collapsible X-shaped assembly. This assembly is then folded in a bi-directional manner from the midportions. The completed electrode assembly 25 has the anode 60 on the outside with anode tabs 22 welded to the case 80 (paragraph 0031) while the cathode tabs 15 are connected to a terminal pin 82 electrically insulated from the casing by a glass-to-metal seal 86. In that respect, the anode active material does not make direct contact with the casing.

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Instead, the anode tabs 82 extending from the anode current collector provide electrical continuity to the negative polarity casing.

Independent claims 1, 5 and 11 have been amended to set forth that the second portion of the first electrode comprising the first electrode active material (anode material or lithium) is directly contacted to an inner surface of the casing. This is illustrated in Fig. 2 where anode material 38 is in direct contact with the casing sidewall 46. In contrast, the prior art cell design illustrated in Fig. 1 of the applicants' specification has the anode material 18 contacting current collector 20 with a separator layer 16 and insulator bag 28 disposed between the current collector 20 and the casing sidewall 26. The anode tabs 22 being welded to the case 80 in Hallifax et al. is also not a structural equivalent to having the "active material directly contacted to an inner surface of the casing sidewall".

Thus, providing the anode or first electrode active material directly contacted to the casing sidewall serving as the terminal for that electrode is a novel and patentably unique structure in light of Hallifax et al. and the admitted prior art described in the applicants' specification. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 5 and 11 are patentable over Hallifax et al. Claims 2 to 4, 6 to 10 and 12 to 15 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

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3. New claims 15 to 18 are directed to aspects of the invention described on page 10 of the specification beginning on line 3. There, it is described that a "portion of the lithium foil extends out beyond an edge of the anode current collector. This portion is then press contacted to the inner surface of the casing sidewalls. In a prismatic design, one of the plates without a current collector is contacted to the inner surface of the casing sidewall."

Allowance of these claims is requested.

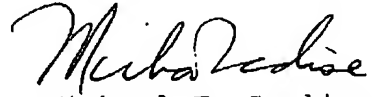
4. The specification has been amended to add clarity. In particular, the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12 has been amended to delete the sentence calling for the present invention electrode assembly being contained in a polymeric insulator bag inserted into the casing. This is, in fact, inaccurate. As described at page 11, lines 10 to 14, the present invention cell is described as having "two less layers of insulator bag, two less layers of separator, and two less anode current collector screens." The cell structure is further defined in the discussion beginning at the bottom of page 11 wherein the "number of layers for each component is calculated..." and there is no insulator bag layers.

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It is believed that claims 1 to 18 are now in condition
for allowance. Notice of Allowance requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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February 27, 2006